

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor insertion tool comprising:
a first member defining a region configured to receive a tissue anchor; ~~and~~
a second member positioned to substantially cover the tissue anchor during introduction
to a surgical site; ~~and coupled to the first member such that relative motion between the members~~
~~deploys the tissue anchor from the region.~~

an applicator configured to engage the tissue anchor; and
a flexor configured to deflect the applicator to deploy the anchor.

2. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 wherein the first
member includes ~~an~~ the applicator, and the second member includes ~~a~~ the flexor; ~~the members~~
~~being coupled by engagement of the flexor and the applicator.~~

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3. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the
applicator includes a straight portion and a ramped portion.

4. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the
applicator includes a first end portion fixed to the first member, and a second end portion
extending into the region to engage the tissue anchor.

5. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the
applicator comprises a spring.

6. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the
applicator is configured to ~~move~~ deflect laterally to a direction of relative motion between the
members.

7. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 2-1 wherein the flexor comprises a pin coupled to the second member for movement therewith relative to the applicator.

8. (Original) The tissue anchor of claim 7 wherein the first member defines an opening for receiving the pin.

9. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 wherein the first member includes first and second distal prongs defining the region therebetween.

10. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 9 wherein the prongs each define arcuate surfaces for receiving the tissue anchor.

11. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 wherein the second member comprises a tubular element substantially surrounding the first member.

12. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 further comprising a contact extending between the first and second members, actuation of the contact causing relative motion between the first member and the second member.

13. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 12 wherein the contact is fixed to the second member.

14. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 13 wherein the first member defines a slot for receiving at least a portion of the contact.

15. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 further comprising a handle.

16. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 14-15 further comprising a coupling between the handle and the first member preventing relative rotation therebetween.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

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19. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor insertion tool comprising:
a first member including an applicator and defining a region configured to receive a tissue anchor, the applicator configured to move laterally to deploy the tissue anchor from the region;

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a second member including a flexor and positioned to substantially cover the tissue anchor during introduction to a surgical site, the members being coupled by engagement of the flexor and the applicator such that relative motion between the members causes the flexor to deflect the applicator to move laterally to deploy the tissue anchor from the region.

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20. (Currently Amended) An anchor and tool assembly, comprising:
a tissue anchor;
a first member receiving the tissue anchor; and
a second member positioned to substantially cover the tissue anchor during introduction to a surgical site; ~~and coupled to the first member such that relative motion between the members deploys the tissue anchor from the first member.~~

an applicator configured to engage the tissue anchor; and
a flexor configured to deflect the applicator to deploy the anchor.

21. (Currently Amended) A tissue anchor insertion tool comprising:
a member defining a region configured to receive a tissue anchor to deliver the tissue anchor to an insertion site; the member including a flexor configured to deflect an applicator configured to move laterally to deploy the anchor from the region; and
a movable element coupled to the member for movement relative to the member between an extended position and a retracted position, the movable element substantially covering the

tissue anchor when in the extended position, and substantially uncovering the tissue anchor when in the retracted position.

22. (Cancelled)

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23. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim ~~22~~21 wherein ~~the~~
~~movable element includes a flexor coupled to the applicator to laterally move the application~~
flexor is configured to deflect the applicator upon axial movement of the movable element.

24. (Original) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 23 wherein the applicator includes
a straight portion permitting movement of the flexor relative to the applicator without lateral
movement of the applicator.

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25. (Currently Amended) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim ~~23~~36 wherein the
applicator includes a ramped portion, wherein movement of the flexor along the ramped portion
laterally deflects the applicator.

26. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing an insertion tool including first and second members coupled for relative
motion, the tool including a flexor and an applicator;
inserting a tissue anchor into tissue using the insertion tool, the tissue anchor being
mounted to the first member and substantially covered by the second member during insertion
into tissue; and
relatively moving the first and second members ~~to~~such that the flexor deflects the
applicator to deploy the tissue anchor from the first member.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of relatively moving comprises
proximally moving the second member relative to the first member.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of relatively moving uncovers the tissue anchor.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of relatively moving deploys the tissue anchor by ~~moving and~~ deflecting the applicator laterally to engage the tissue anchor.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein engaging the tissue anchor rotates the tissue anchor.

31. (Currently Amended) An arthroscopic method comprising:
inserting a tissue anchor into tissue; and
~~moving an applicator laterally to rotate~~ applying a lateral force to an applicator such that
the applicator rotates the tissue anchor during deployment of the tissue anchor into tissue.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31 further comprising substantially covering the tissue anchor during insertion of the tissue anchor into tissue.

33. (New) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 wherein the first and second members are configured such that relative motion between the members causes the flexor to deflect the applicator.

34. (New) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 wherein the applicator is configured to engage and rotate the anchor upon deflection.

35. (New) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 34 wherein the anchor is configured to rotate about an axis that is substantially perpendicular to an axis that is longitudinal to the second member.

36. (New) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 21 further comprising the applicator.

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37. (New) The tissue anchor insertion tool of claim 1 wherein the first and second members are coupled by engagement of the flexor and the applicator.

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In the drawings

Attached to this response is an amended Figure 2B. Figure 2B has been amended by replacing the element number 52 that pointed to the free distal end of applicator 5 with the element number 51 so as to conform the figure with the written portion of the specification.